

Claims:

1. (Original) A mixture adapted for placement within a container, said mixture comprising:

particles selected from the group consisting of metal oxide particles, metal hydroxide particles, and mixtures thereof,

said particles having a surface area of at least about 70 m²/g; and

a propellant.

2. (Currently Amended) The mixture of claim 1, said metal oxides being selected from the group consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, ZrO₂, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, and Ag₂O and mixtures thereof.

3. (Original) The mixture of claim 2, said metal oxide comprising MgO.

4. (Original) The mixture of claim 1, said mixture including a suspension agent for said particles.

5. (Currently Amended) The mixture of claim 4, said suspension agent selected from the group consisting of ~~pentane~~ organic solvents and water.

6. (Original) The mixture of claim 1, said particles comprising metal oxide composites made up of a first metal oxide at least partially coated with a second, different metal oxide.

7. (Original) The mixture of claim 1, said particles being present as a self-sustaining body formed of a plurality of agglomerated particles.

8. (Original) The mixture of claim 1, said propellant being nitrogen gas.

9. (Original) A mixture adapted for placement within a container, said mixture consisting essentially of particles selected from the group consisting of metal oxide and metal hydroxide particles and mixtures thereof, a suspension agent for said particles, and a propellant.

10. (Original) The mixture of claim 9, said metal oxide and metal hydroxide parties each respectively selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, transition metal, and lanthanide oxides and hydroxides and mixtures thereof.

11. (Original) The mixture of claim 10, said metal oxides being selected from the group consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, ZrO₂, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, SiO₂, and Ag₂O and mixtures thereof.

12. (Original) The mixture of claim 11, said metal oxide being MgO.

13. (Currently Amended) The mixture of claim 9, said suspension agent selected from the group consisting of ~~pentane~~ organic solvents and water.

14. (Original) A non-aqueous mixture adapted for placement within a container, said mixture comprising particles selected from the group consisting of metal oxide and metal hydroxide particles and mixtures thereof, said particles having an average crystallite size of up to about 20 nm, and a propellant.

15. (Original) The mixture of claim 14, said metal oxide and metal hydroxide parties each respectively selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, transition metal, and lanthanide oxides and hydroxides, and mixtures thereof.

16. (Original) The mixture of claim 15, said metal oxides being selected from the group consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, ZrO₂, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, SiO₂, and Ag₂O and mixtures thereof.

17. (Original) The mixture of claim 16, said metal oxide being MgO.

18. (Original) The mixture of claim 14, said mixture including a suspension agent for said particles.

19. (Currently Amended) The mixture of claim 18, said suspension agent selected from the group consisting of ~~pentane~~ organic solvents and water.

20. (Original) A method of at least partially decontaminating an area subjected to an undesirable chemical or biological agent, comprising the step of spraying the mixture of claim 1 adjacent said area.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, said area comprising a surface.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, said surface comprising a textured surface of a member selected from the group consisting of wallboard, metal panel, ceiling tile, office panel, cement, and carpet.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, said undesirable chemical or biological agent being an airborne agent.

24. (Original) A method of at least partially decontaminating an area subjected to an undesirable chemical or biological agent, comprising the step of spraying the mixture of claim 9 adjacent said area.

25. (Original) A method of at least partially decontaminating an area subjected to an undesirable chemical or biological agent, comprising the step of spraying the mixture of claim 14 adjacent said area.